

Cape-Atlantic Conservation District Minutes

January 26, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. at the District office in Mays Landing, NJ.

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. stated that in review of the Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 PL 1975 adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mail to The Press of Atlantic City and Gazettes of Atlantic and Cape May County specifying time and place this meeting is to be held.

FLAG SALUTE

Chairman, Allen Carter, Jr. led the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Supervisors: Allen Carter, Jr., Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Richard Dovey and Cormac Morrissey

Staff: Michael Kent, Glenn Ward, Chelsea Steffes, Rachel Thornton, and Marie Rogowski

MINUTES

A. Minutes of December 15, 2021 Meeting

After Board review, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2021, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A. Treasurers Reports

1. District Financials – December 2021

After Board review and discussion, a motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve the District's December 2021 treasurer's report, balance sheet and expenses in the amount of \$50,624.25. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PMC Financials – December 2021

After review of the PMC monthly expense report for December 2021, a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Robert Fenton to approve treasurer's

report, balance sheet and account balance of \$12,548.51. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Annual Appropriations Bill

Michael Kent noted that annual appropriations bill is due and is higher than budgeted. After board discussion a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Cormac Morrissey to pay annual appropriations bill in the amount of \$82,489.00. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

1. December 2021 Certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Richard Dovey approving all Plan Certifications listed on the December 2021 Application Report except for application 525-21. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Robert Fenton approving application 525-21. Joseph Lomax recused. The motion passed.

2. December 2021 Re-certifications

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton approving all applications listed on the December 2021 Re-Certification Application Report. The motion passed unanimously

B. Farmland Program

1. Conservation Plan

After board discussion a motion was made by Richard Dovey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to approve the following Conservation Plan:

- a. Buena Borough, 18.13 acres, Irrigation Well & Pumping Plant

The motion passed unanimously.

C. District Board of Supervisors Meetings

Board reviewed meeting start time options. After discussion there was Board consensus to maintain meeting start times but include hybrid option.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Education

Glenn Ward

-Attended Envirothon planning committee meeting. Envirothon will be held virtually May 7, 2022 and May 21, 2022. Topic is "Waste to Resources".

-Discussed offering mini-grants to schools within the District that register and participate in event. A motion was made by Robert Fenton and seconded by Richard Dovey to offer a maximum of six (6) \$50.00 mini-grants. The motion passed unanimously.

-National Envirothon will be held at Miami University, Oxford Ohio. Date has not been announced.

- Poster contest information has been mailed out to schools. Theme is “Healthy Soil Healthy Life”. District will award prizes totaling \$300.00 as budgeted. Four (4) \$50.00 1st place winners and four (4) \$25.00 2nd place winners.
- Update on Cape May and Atlantic Counties Earth Day events scheduled for April 23rd and 24th respectively. District will have displays at both events.
- Update on Joseph Girnius, Stockton University intern that started on January 18, 2022.

Rachel Thornton

- Started work on redesigning and updating District website.
- Continuing to update the District and Coastal Resources Conservancy Inc. (CRCI) Facebook pages on a regular basis.

C. Grants

Michael Kent

- Update on Civil Engineer Technician (CET) grant being filled by Ashley Hines at the NRCS Woodstown field office.
- Update on NACD Technical Assistance grant being filled by Zachary Nixon at the NRCS Vineland field office.
- 2022 NACD Technical Assistance Grants are now available. After discussion a motion was made by Cormac Morrissey and seconded by Joseph Lomax to apply for 2022 grant. The motion passed unanimously.
- Updated Board on outreach efforts.

Chelsea Steffes

- Created and presented poster that will be on display at the NACD Annual Conference.

Cormac Morrissey

- Met with Ron Schmid, Absegami High School science teacher, along with Michael Kent and Chelsea Steffes to discuss the school’s agricultural programs and how the District and CRCI can work together in the future.

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Update on carbon sequestration and possible District opportunities.

COMMENTS

A. Staff

Chelsea Steffes

- Staying busy with meetings, creating NACD poster, 251 plan review and inspections.
- Started contacting farmers to conduct State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) annual farm inspections.

Rachel Thornton

- Busy with plan review, site inspections.

Glenn Ward

- Distributed and discussed 251 Quarterly Report
- Update on 251 applications received and activity throughout the District.

Michael Kent

- Thanked the staff for all their hard work.

B. Supervisors

Joseph Lomax

- Requested executive session to discuss support staff.
- Update on NACD meetings and work being completed by the various committees.
- 2022 Year of Celebration-Million Acres for Chapter 251 projects.

Richard Dovey

- Update on ACUA staffing shortages and collection issues.
- Commented on historic low sewage flow.
- Commented on upcoming ACUA projects.

Robert Fenton

- Commented on GPS fishing lines and location of offshore windmill installation.
- Busy attending meetings.

Cormac Morrissey

- Pinelands has adopted new Stormwater Rules. Webinar to be held on February 10, 2022.
- Commented on possibility of the District producing GIS maps for Go Green Galloway.

Allen Carter, Jr.

- Update on the NJ Agricultural and NJ Vegetable Growers Conventions both to be held next month in Atlantic City.
- Update from New Jersey Farm Bureau meeting held January 25, 2022.
- Reported on a number of Ag. related bills the Farm Bureau had been working on that were signed by the Governor at the end of his first term.
- Commented on the drastic increase in pricing for fertilizer.
- Attended and commented on American Farm Bureau Convention.
- Will be attending Turf Producers International Conference next month in California.

C. USDA-NRCS

Michelle Pedano

- Unable to attend meeting. Forwarded copy of monthly activity report for Board to review.
- Copy of NACD Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist was distributed to the Board for review. Michelle Pedano will conduct annual review at next meeting.

D. SSCC

- Board discussed the promotion of Frank Minch to Director of NJDA's Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources. Mr. Minch will continue to serve as Executive Secretary. Joe Atchison to serve as Assistant Secretary of Ag.

E. Rutgers Cooperative Extension

- Allen Carter, Jr. reported that an offer is on the table to fill vacant Cape May County Ag. agent position.

F. Public

- Opened meeting to public comment.
- No comments from public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to go into executive session at 10:01 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to end executive session at 10:57 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action items from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Allen Carter, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday February 23, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at the District office, Mays Landing, NJ.

Marie Rogowski,
Administrative Assistant

Executive Session Meeting Minutes
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
January 26, 2022

Motion to go into executive session was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton at 10:01a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Attendees:

District Supervisors: Allen Carter, Robert Fenton, Joseph Lomax, Richard Dovey and Cormac Morrissey

District Staff: Michael Kent and Glenn Ward

Engineering Support for Districts:

Joseph Lomax presented to the Board for discussion, that State Engineer John Showler has extra job responsibilities and shared his concerns about a succession plan for the state engineer position, if warranted.

Retaining Employees

Joseph Lomax presented to the Board for discussion, his concerns about retaining present District employees.

District Visits

Joseph Lomax presented to the Board for discussion, that he and NJACD Treasurer Dennis Dougherty will be visiting Southern NJ Districts to possibly develop a coalition of shared services.

A motion was made by Joseph Lomax and seconded by Robert Fenton to end executive session at 10:57 a.m. and return to the regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Glenn Ward